
RING OF BRIGHT WATER – June 2018

The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

Incorporation Certificate Number: IA28888

All Mail to the Secretary

Carolyn Coombes, PO Box 12820, George St Post Office, Brisbane City 4000

Email: secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au

www.womenwritersqld.org.au

Words from your President

Your committee has been discussing ways we can more easily engage with and inspire and encourage all our members. We are working on several ideas.

One is the Electronic Magazine. Thank you to Helen Boardman for the idea for the name of the group. INDABA means *Story* or *Story Teller* in Zulu and most African Languages. Currently we are trialling the EMag, so you will hear more about it shortly. Our Postal Magazines will continue however some members may choose to go Electronic. Please communicate with your editor or Sue Wagner.

We are now doing our banking through Heritage Bank and internet banking is set up. As well we have a post box – which means we will have a regular address for competition entries and correspondence, rather than change every time our office bearers change.

It is exciting to announce that we have submitted Vicki Bennett's details to the SWWVic as Qld's entry in *The Alice Award*. Many of our members have met and heard Vicki. She was a speaker at our May meeting. She has an impressive history with writing and her new publications are popular in schools. You can read all about her at her website www.vickibennett.com.au.

Our first Writing Competition for 2018 is the Estelle Pinney Writing Competition, which is now open. The entry form is attached to this newsletter, and you can also download it from our website.

We are hoping to encourage non-members to participate, in a way to increase the awareness of this amazing organisation that encourages and promotes women writers. Please let your writing friends know about the competition. Non-members can enter, but there is a fee. One of the many benefits of being a member of SWWQ is that you can enter for free. Check the rules and get writing.



Upcoming Events

Next Members' Meetings

12 June 2018

Note change of venue for THIS meeting only:

***Queensland Writers Centre
Level 2, State Library of Qld***

The Library opens at 10 am but the café opens earlier.

10 July 2018

*Creating Materials for people
with Vision Impairment*

Presented by Sue Wagner

You can't learn spelling and punctuation from audio lessons ... Think about it!

In July, Sue will tell us why she does Braille, and how she and a team of Braille Transcribers at Braille House produce books, student texts, documents, even greeting cards in Braille. Enter the fascinating world of reading by touch.

*Brisbane Square Library. 10 a.m.
Community Room,
Ground Floor*

*Donation at the door for these
meetings is \$5. This includes a
ticket into a raffle prize draw.*

Words from your President Cont'd

Do you have a blog or website? In the 21st Century, the Internet has become a big friend of writers. Not only for the promotion of their writing and books, but a way to improve one's skills, get paid for writing, sell one's books or get paid for freelance writing. It can be quite complicating and overwhelming, but there is a free and easy way to create a website and/or blog. We may be conducting a workshop at the Bribie Retreat in August, but in the meantime, if anyone would like online instruction and support, let me know.

Have you published a book in the last 12 months? If so, you may be interested in a special book promotion idea that the committee is discussing. More details will be available next month, so keep reading your ROBW for more details. This will be a members-only opportunity.

Sadly two of our members have lost their spouses recently. Our thoughts are with Mocco Wollert on the death of her husband Niklaus and Mary Mennis on the death of her husband Brian.

It is always good news to hear that our members are busy writing, publishing their books or promoting them. Keep writing!

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**NON-MEMBERS MAY ATTEND ONE MEETING TO TRY US OUT BEFORE JOINING
WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND AS OUR GUEST TO THE NEXT MEETING**

Scam Alert

You do not need to register your copyright work in Australia. Copyright protection is automatic upon creation of your manuscript or artwork.

The website 'Copyright-Australia.com' purports to "register and protect your creative works". **The Australian Society of Authors regard this site as a scam and warn against providing personal information or credit card details.**

Competitions

We take no responsibility for accuracy. Please check the websites for more information entry forms/conditions etc.

Society of Women Writers Qld Estelle Pinney SS Competition

NOTE NEW CLOSING DATE

Closing Date: 31/07/2018

Open to: All Australian Women Writers

Fee: \$10 per entry or \$20 for 3 (free entry for financial members of SWWQ, for up to 2 short stories.)

Length: Maximum of 1500 words.

First: \$350

Second: \$150

Third: \$75

Plus certificates for winners and commended and highly commended

Conditions and Entry form are attached to this newsletter. Copies may be obtained by emailing the President – email address at the bottom of page 4

NOTE: New members joining in May 2018 will have their membership carried over until 30 June 2019.

FAW NSW Jean Stone 2018 Poetry Award

Closing Date: 31/08/2018

Fee: \$10

Length: A poem or group of poems up to 60 lines

Prizes: \$500

Download
[conditions and entry form](#)

Member Achievements

Billabong

Looking glass of bush land,
cradled in red earth
promising to man and beast
place of death and birth.
Voicelessly you call each day
the hunter black and strong
who honours you in ancient dance
and sacred tribal song.
Jabiru and kangaroo
share you beneath the moon
man and spirit being one
arrested at high noon.
You lie supine in stillness
enduring searing heat,
keeping in trust the living past
eternal dreamtime beat.

Mocco Wollert

Published in the April edition of *Positive Words*

10 'Tricks' to Improve your Writing Overnight

1. Know your reader. Writing from the reader's perspective will dramatically change the way you write.
2. Know your objective. This will be your 'most wanted result'.
3. Use short words. Don't show how many big words you know.
4. Use short sentences. This will present your thoughts more cleanly and clearly.
5. Use short paragraphs. Don't present your reader with a block of text that they will be tempted to skip over.
6. Use active language. Active language is vigorous and interesting. Passive language is boring and difficult for many readers to understand.
7. Write recklessly, rewrite ruthlessly. It's okay if your first draft is awful. That's why we rewrite.
8. Have a writing routine. Like any muscle, writing needs exercise. Choose your time and your tools to suit your creative and editing muscles.
9. Let your writing 'age'. In other words, let the 'blood' dry on the page before you do your final rewrite.
10. Finish rewriting before seeking feedback. Only choose readers you trust and ask them to highlight anything they find confusing, unbelievable or boring. Then weight their comments and decide if you need to make changes.

From *michaelhyatt.com*

OPPORTUNITY

The Writers' Grapevine

Themes:

July: The One That Got Away

Aug: Friendship and Families

Word count: short stories, flash fiction – up to 1600 words
poems – up to 250 words.

If you have a short story up to 3000 words, this will be placed over 2 editions as Part 1 and Part 2, each part roughly 1500 words.

All contributions are considered for placement into the Writers' Grapevine. The themes are only a guide for contributions. If you have a contribution you would like placed into a particular edition, even if it does not follow the theme, just let them know and if it is deemed suitable, they will place your writing into the issue you have asked for.

Please send your contributions via email

to: writersgrapevine@yahoo.com

The Estelle Pinney Short Story Competition

Now closing 31 July 2018

NEW mailing address
PO Box 12820 George St Post
Office, Brisbane City, 4000

Don't worry if you have already sent your entry, mail to that address will still be collected up to the close of the competition.

See the attached conditions and entry form for more information

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PLEASE NOTE:

We now have a post office box and have changed our bank.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, all mail is to go to:

**SWWQ
PO Box 12820
George St Post Office
Brisbane City, 4000**

Our new bank details are:

**Society of Women Writers, Inc,
Heritage Bank, BSB: 638-010
Account No: 14596725**

Please ensure your name is used as reference if you make a deposit online or over the counter at any branch.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Your renewal notice will be mailed to you shortly. Please watch for it and note the additional form attached to it. Fill this in and return it as soon as possible.

Payment options will be outlined on the renewal form.

Renewal of Subscriptions is due on 1 July and must be paid before the 31 August. Your payment before that date will assist budget planning for future meetings and events.

Benefits of membership

- Network with aspiring and published authors
- Receive copies of the SWWQ Newsletter - Ring of Bright Water - with updates and links to other publications/competitions
- Opportunity to attend presentations to hear published writers, and learn new skills at workshops
- Free entry to SWWQ Writing Competitions
- Participate in critiquing groups through Postal Writers and Electronic Writers Groups
- Receive benefits from the Queensland Writers Centre through SWWQ membership of that organisation
- Attend the annual Writers Retreat - usually held on Bribie Island – at member prices.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Di Hill - president@womenwritersqld.org.au

Secretary: Carolyn Coombes - secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au

Treasurer: Wendy Svartz - treasurer@womenwritersqld.org.au

Committee Members

Adele Moy; Sue Wagner; Trudy Graham; Bernadette Ketter;
Helen Boardman, Marj Wilke and Alexandra Cornwell.

Membership Year

Our membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June each year. However, if you know of anyone who wants to join, they can do so in May and have their membership carry over until 30 June 2019.